



# A STUDY OF CAREER ORIENTATION OF FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN RELATION TO PARENTAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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## ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to study the relationship between parental education, parental employment status and career orientation of female college students. The main purpose of present study was to compare career orientation of female college students across high and low level of parental education and employment status. For present study 150 female college students were selected using random sampling from five degree colleges affiliated by Punjab University Chandigarh. Career Orientation Scale designed by Tanwar and Singh 1988 and Personal information data sheet was developed by researcher herself to seek information regarding educational status and employment status of parents were used. No significant difference was found in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education and employment status.

**KEY WORDS:** Career Orientation, College Students, Parental Education and Employment Status.

Everyday decision can be related to the essence of human. In today's society, individuals are trying to "do it all"-to find life satisfaction through a combination of multiple roles (e.g., career, marriage, parenting, homecare). Traditional India has seen a woman only as a member of the family or a group-as daughters, wives and mothers, not as an individual with an identity or right of her own (ICSSR Report, 1988). Majority of Indian women are still confined to the boundary of four walls of the house and are in disadvantageous position. Women in college today think about their future and plan for work and family. Career is a social stand of a person's course through life. It is the sequence of work related activities and associated attitudes, values and aspiration over the span of one's life. It connects intention to work or less continuously throughout life; desire to work even when there is no financial need, expecting to derive a large amount of satisfaction from work. There are many Different sets of social, demographic and psychological factor related with female vocational behavior reveal a dearth of relationship of development of career orientation in the female's college students. Parental education status and employment is one of the most influential factors that facilitate the career orientation of female college students. Parents have the strong impact on their children and the potential to shape their orientation toward achievement. A number of studies have been conducted in the field of career orientation and parental employment. Stevens and Mason (1992) found that mothers' education have an impact on their daughter. The higher mother's education is, the more interested in mathematic activities the daughter is. Previous research has studied about the parental role for their children in career planning and found that parents may perceive themselves as supportive, informative and educative roles. Supportive role means to provide supportive environment in which students can talk and share their career options. Parents also perceive themselves as the person who can give their child information about careers and as being educators. Mortimer et. al. (1992) parental education was the variable that had the most effect on educational plans and occupational aspiration. They also reported that parents with post secondary education tend to pass along its importance to their children. Wahl and Black burst (2000) stated that occupational status and educational level of female's parents had a significant impact on their career choice. Pfingst (2015) found that female students' aspirations are influenced by parental background in a variety of significant ways. Students whose mother had completed either year 10 or year 12 were more likely to aspire to attend university at the completion of their secondary education than to pursue further education at TAFE (Technical and further education). Students whose fathers had reached the highest level of education to year 10 or 12, were more likely to aspire to attend university than to directly enter the work force either part or fulltime. It was determined that the school attended for secondary education also had an influence on a female student's future aspirations.

## Objectives of the Study

- 1) To compare the career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education status.
- 2) To compare the career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental employment status.

## Hypothesis of the Study

- 1) There is no significant difference in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education status.

- 2) There is no significant difference in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education status.

## Sample of the Study

The sample of the study consisted of 150 students of female college students from the college affiliated by Punjab University Chandigarh, offering B.A/B.S.C/B.com courses.

## Tools Used

Following tools were used for data collection:

- 1) Career Orientation Scale designed by Tanwar and Singh 1988 was used to measure the career orientation of female college students.
- 2) Personal information data sheet was developed by researcher herself to seek information regarding educational status and employment status of parents.

## Description of Parental Education and Employment Status

S. no.	Level	Score Value
<b>Parental Education( Separately for Father and Mother)</b>		
	Illiterate	0
	Metric	1
	Senior Secondary	2
	Graduate	3
	Post Graduate/ Professional (doctor, engineer etc.)	4
<b>Parental Employment ( Separately for Father and Mother)</b>		
	No Employment	0
	Average Employment	1
	High Employment (Officer, Professional, Lecturer, Doctor)	2

## Statistical Techniques Used

To test hypothesis of present study, t-test was used.

## Results

To compare the career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education's t-test was used. Summary of t-test is given in Table-1. Table-1 show that t- value is 1.327 which is less than table value 1.985 for significant at 0.05 level for 111 degree of freedom (df). This means that in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education status does not differ at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table -1**  
**Summary of t-test for difference between female college students across high and low levels of parental education on career orientation.**

Parental Education	N	Mean	S.D	t
Low Parental Education	84	36.309	14.599	1.327
High parental Education	29	40.862	16.238	
P > 0.05 (Not significant at 0.05 level)				

Therefore, null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education status” is accepted.

Summary of t-test to compare the career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental educations is given in Table-2. Table-2 show that t- value is 0.5932 which is less than table value 1.985 for significant at 0.05 level for 85 degree of freedom (df). This means that in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental employment status does not differ significantly at 0.05 level.

**Table -2**

**Summary of t-test for difference between female college students across high and low levels of parental employment on career orientation.**

Parental Employment	N	Mean	S.D	t
Low Parental Employment	30	33.483	15.743	0.5932
High parental Employment	57	35.508	15.797	
P > 0.05 (Not significant at 0.05 level)				

Therefore, null hypothesis that “There is no significant difference in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental employment status” is accepted.

### Discussion

Findings of present study show that significant difference was not found in career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education and employment status. Results of some previous studies also reveal that career orientation of students across high and low levels of parental education and employment status not differ significantly. Goodale (1973) studied on inheriting a career: the influence of sex, values, and parents. This study reveals that there was no significant difference in the career orientation across high and low level of parental education and employment status. He found that girls are more independent of the socioeconomic background of their parents in formulating their career aspirations. Weidman (1984) evaluated the impact of parental socialization on under graduate female's occupation and career goals. He found that there were no significant effects of family background. Prasetyo. (2005) examined the distinction between parental socioeconomic status and educational and career aspirations among 379 students from two public and two private universities. He evaluated that the highest parent's education does not guarantee that their children would have elevated career aspirations. In the other words, the role of parental highest education becomes less important when children grow into adulthood. These researches are supportive results of present study. Investigator thinks that in present time career is a social stand of a person's course through life. It is the sequence of work related activities and associated attitudes, values and aspiration over the span of one's life. It connects intention to work or less continuously throughout life; desire to work even when there is no financial need, expecting to derive a large amount of satisfaction from work, therefore, no significant difference were found on career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education and employment status.

### Educational Implications and Suggestions

In present study no significant difference were found on career orientation of female college students across high and low levels of parental education and employment status. It would be worthwhile to suggest that if awareness campaigns can be brought, it may lead to better career commitment among female college students. For this career counseling should be introduced in secondary school and colleges to equip the girl students to choose a career of their own choice as per their abilities and interests.

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